

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows. This listing will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application. Claim 47 has been amended.

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (previously presented): A method to generate a display, on a display device, representing venture capital ("VC") investments in a plurality of industries, comprising:

allocating a plurality of portions of the display device to correspond to a plurality of separate industries;

allocating a sub-portion of each portion to a sub-industry of the industry to which that portion corresponds; and

within the sub-portion, displaying a venture capital shape for each VC portfolio company in that sub-industry, wherein the venture capital shapes are arranged in a spiral, including determining the spatial relationship among the venture capital shapes in the spiral based on a particular characteristic associated with the VC portfolio companies, the size of each sub-portion being determined by the number of VC portfolio companies in the corresponding sub-industry.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, further comprising:

allocating a plurality of sub-portions for each portion, each sub-portion allocated to a separate sub-industry of the industry allocated to that portion, and displaying an industry shape for each industry and a sub-industry shape for each sub-industry.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The method of claim 2, further comprising:

arranging the sub-portions according to a characteristic of the sub-industries to which the sub-portions are allocated.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The method of claim 2, wherein:

the particular characteristic, is a first particular characteristic;

each venture capital shape is displayed with an indication of a second particular characteristic;

each industry shape is displayed with an indication of an industry particular characteristic; and

each sub-industry shape is displayed with an indication of a sub-industry particular characteristic.

Claim 5 (original): The method of claim 4, wherein:

the first particular characteristic is an amount of time since the VC portfolio company was seeded; and the second particular characteristic is total VC investment for that company as of a particular time.

Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 5, further comprising:

changing the particular time; and modifying the display to account for the second particular characteristic as of the changed particular time.

Claim 7 (original): The method of claim 6, further comprising:

changing the particular time based on input from a user.

Claim 8 (original): The method of claim 7, further comprising:

displaying a user interface element indicating the particular time; and receiving the changed particular time from a user via the user interface element.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The method of claim 4, wherein the indication with which each venture capital, industry, and sub-industry shape is displayed includes color.

Claim 10 (original): The method of claim 4, wherein:

the first particular characteristic is an amount of time since a particular event occurred with respect to the VC portfolio company; and

the second particular characteristic is as of a particular time.

Claim 11 (previously presented): A method to generate a display, on a display device, representing objects in a plurality of categories, comprising:

allocating a plurality of portions of the display device to correspond to a plurality of separate categories;

allocating a sub-portion of each portion to a sub-category of the category to which that portion corresponds; and

within the sub-portion, displaying an object shape for each object in that sub-category, wherein the object shapes are arranged in a spiral, including determining the spatial relationship among the object shapes in the spiral based on a particular characteristic associated with the objects, the size of each sub-portion being determined by the number of objects in the corresponding sub-category.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The method of claim 11, further comprising:
allocating a plurality of sub-portions for each portion, each sub-portion allocated to a separate sub-category of the category to which that portion is allocated, and displaying a category shape for each category and a sub-category shape for each sub-category.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The method of claim 12, further comprising:
arranging the sub-portions according to a characteristic of the sub-categories to which the sub-portions are allocated.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The method of claim 12, wherein:
the particular characteristic is a first particular characteristic;
each object shape is displayed with an indication of a second particular characteristic;
each category shape is displayed with an indication of a category particular characteristic;
and
each sub-category shape is displayed with an indication of a sub-category particular characteristic.

Claim 15 (original): The method of claim 14, wherein:
the first particular characteristic is an amount of time since a particular event occurred with respect to the object; and
the second particular characteristic is as of a particular time.

Claim 16 (original): The method of claim 15, further comprising:
changing the particular time; and

modifying the display to account for the second particular characteristic as of the changed particular time.

Claim 17 (original): The method of claim 16, further comprising:
changing the particular time based on input from a user.

Claim 18 (original): The method of claim 17, further comprising:
displaying a user interface element indicating the particular time; and
receiving the changed particular time from a user via the user interface element.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The method of claim 14, wherein the indication with which each category, sub-category, and object shape is displayed includes color.

Claim 20 (previously presented): A method to generate a display, on a display device, representing at least one venture capital firm ("VC"), comprising:

- a) generating a line to represent at least one VC firm and allocating a plurality of linear portions of the display along that line to correspond to a plurality of separate time segments;
- b) at each of the plurality of linear portions, altering the size of the linear portion to provide an indication of a value of a characteristic of the at least one VC firm for the time segment to which that linear portion corresponds.

Claim 21 (original): The method of claim 20, wherein:
the characteristic includes a return on investment measurement for the VC firm.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The method of claim 20, wherein:
the linear portion is rectangular in shape.

Claim 23 (original): The method of claim 22, wherein:
the characteristic includes return on investment.

Claim 24 (original): The method of claim 22, wherein:
the characteristic is a first characteristic;
the method further comprises displaying the rectangle with a color based on a second characteristic of the venture capital firm.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The method of claim 20, further comprising:
displaying a shape having a color based on the value of the characteristic.

Claim 26 (previously presented): The method of claim 20, wherein:
the plurality of linear portions are first linear portions, and the at least one venture capital investment firm is a first venture capital firm; and
the method further comprises
 allocating a plurality of second linear portions of the display to correspond to the plurality of time segments; and
 at each of the plurality of second linear portions, displaying along the second linear portion an indication of a value of the first characteristic of at least one second venture capital firm in the time segment to which that second linear portion corresponds.

Claim 27 (previously presented): The method of claim 26, wherein the first linear portion corresponding to a particular one of the time segments is adjacent to the second linear portion corresponding to the particular one of the time segments.

Claim 28 (previously presented): A method to generate a display, on a display device, representing at least one object, comprising:

- a) generating a line to represent at least one object and allocating a plurality of linear portions of the display along that line to correspond to a plurality of separate ranges of a first characteristic;
- b) at each of the plurality of linear portions, displaying along the linear portion an indication of a value of a second characteristic of the at least one object for the range, of the first characteristic, to which that linear portion corresponds.

Claim 29 (original): The method of claim 28, wherein:
the first characteristic includes time.

Claim 30 (previously presented): The method of claim 28, further comprising:
displaying a rectangle having a length along the linear portion based on the value of the
second characteristic.

Claim 31 (original): The method of claim 30, further comprising:
displaying the rectangle having a color based on the value of a third characteristic of the
object.

Claim 32 (previously presented): The method of claim 28, further comprising:
displaying a shape having a color based on the value of the second characteristic.

Claim 33 (previously presented): The method of claim 28, wherein:
the plurality of linear portions are first linear portions, and the at least one object is a first
object; and
the method further comprises
 allocating a plurality of second linear portions of the display to correspond to the
plurality of separate ranges of the first characteristic; and
 at each of the plurality of second linear portions, displaying an indication of a
value of the second characteristic of at least one second object in the range of the first
characteristic to which that second linear portion corresponds.

Claim 34 (previously presented): The method of claim 33, wherein the first linear
portion corresponding to a particular one of the time segments is adjacent to the second linear
portion corresponding to the particular one of the time segments.

Claim 35 (previously presented): A method to generate a display, on a display device, representing venture capital investments, comprising:

generating a plurality of first shapes on the display, wherein each first shape indicates a number of associated venture capital firms having a value of a first particular characteristic within a range of values that correspond to that first shape;

within each first shape, generating a second shape for at least some of the venture capital firms associated with that first shape, wherein each second shape indicates a value of a second particular characteristic of that venture capital firm, and either the first or second shape, or both, indicates a value of another particular characteristic.

Claim 36 (original): The method of claim 35, wherein:

the first shapes are rectangles; and

the second shapes are rectangles.

Claim 37 (original): The method of claim 35, wherein:

the first shapes are rectangles; and each first shape indicates the number of associated venture capital firms by the length of that rectangle.

Claim 38 (original): The method of claim 35, wherein:

the second shapes are rectangles; and

each second shape indicates the value of the second particular characteristic by the length of that rectangle.

Claim 39 (original): The method of claim 36, wherein:

each first shape indicates the number of associated venture capital firms by the length of the rectangle that is that first shape;

each second shape indicates the value of the second particular characteristic by the length of the rectangle that is that second shape; and

the lengths of the rectangles that are the second shapes are perpendicular to the lengths of the rectangles that are the first shapes.

Claim 40 (original): The method of claim 38, wherein:
the second shape indicates a third particular characteristic of that venture capital firm by the color of the second shape.

Claim 41 (previously presented): A method to generate a display, on a display device, representing objects, comprising:
generating a plurality of first shapes on the display, wherein each first shape indicates a number of associated objects having a value of a first particular characteristic within a range of values that correspond to that first shape;
within each first shape, generating a second shape for at least some of the objects associated with that first shape, wherein each second shape indicates a value of a second particular characteristic of that object, and either the first or second shape, or both, indicates a value of another particular characteristic.

Claim 42 (original): The method of claim 41, wherein:
the first shapes are rectangles; and
the second shapes are rectangles.

Claim 43 (original): The method of claim 41, wherein:
the first shapes are rectangles; and
each first shape indicates the number of associated objects by the length of that rectangle.

Claim 44 (original): The method of claim 43, wherein:
the second shapes are rectangles; and
each second shape indicates the value of the second particular characteristic by the length of that rectangle.

Claim 45 (original): The method of claim 41, wherein:
each first shape indicates the number of associated objects by the length of the rectangle that is that first shape;

each second shape indicates the value of the second particular characteristic by the length of the rectangle that is that second shape; and

the lengths of the rectangles that are the second shapes are perpendicular to the lengths of the rectangles that are the first shapes.

Claim 46 (original): The method of claim 45, wherein:

the second shape indicates a third particular characteristic of that object by the color of the second shape.

Claim 47 (currently amended): A method of ~~tracking investment money~~ to generate a display, on a display device, representing objects in a plurality of categories comprising:

receiving information regarding the flow of venture capital into of a number of startup companies;

identifying each startup company as corresponding to a sub-industry;

identifying each sub-industry as corresponding to an industry;

generating a startup icon representing each startup company;

generating a sub-industry icon representing each sub-industry, each sub-industry icon contains the startup icon of each corresponding startup company;

generating an industry icon representing each industry, the color of each industry icon correlates to the total investment in the industry; and

displaying a plurality of industry icons and each corresponding sub-industry icon, wherein at least one of the sub-industry icons is superimposed upon the corresponding industry icon.

Claim 48 (original): The method of claim 47, comprising identifying a first mover advantage.

Claim 49 (original): The method of claim 47, comprising displaying information regarding each startup company simultaneously with financial figures regarding both the corresponding industry and sub-industry.

Claim 50 (original): The method of claim 49, wherein the size of each sub-industry icon correlates to the number of corresponding startup companies.

Claim 51 (original): The method of claim 50, wherein the color of a portion of each sub-industry icon represents the total investment in that sub-industry.

Claim 52 (original): The method of claim 51, wherein the location of each sub-industry with respect to the corresponding industry icon indicates a real world business relationship between the sub-industry and the corresponding industry.

Claim 53 (original): The method of claim 47, wherein the size of each industry icon correlates to the number of corresponding sub-industries.

Claim 54 (original): The method of claim 47, wherein the startup icons within each sub-industry icon indicate a first characteristic of the corresponding startup company by color and the position of each startup icon within the corresponding sub-industry icon is fixed over time.

Claim 55 (original): The method of claim 47, wherein at least one of the sub-industry icons is not superimposed upon the corresponding industry icon.